WASHINGTON.

"LIBERTY AND UNION, NOW AND PORRYER, ONE AND

THURSDAY, JUNE 2, 1864.

ARMORED VESSELS.

Our readers are aware that successive calls have been made in each branch of Congress during the present session upon the Navy Department for all information in its possession with regard to armored vessels and their efficiency and capability as revealed by the service they have performed in the pending war, and especially in the naval operations before Charleston.

In response to these several calls as made on the 17th of December last in the Senate, and on the following 13th of January and 29th of February in the House of Representatives, the Secretary of the Navy has communicated to Speaker COLFAX a mass of letters, official papers, and memoranda relating to the topics embraced in the resolution of Congress. These papers, as printed, fill a volume of over 600 pages, and give a complete exposition of the whole subject, commencing with the first recommendation of Secretary Welles under this head, made on the 4th of July, 1861, in his report communicated to Congress as then convened in extraordinary session.

The volume will be found interesting as well for the light it sheds on the history of the war as for its relation to the progress that has been made in a new department of naval architecture, as to the merits and capabilities of which some difference of opinion exists among experts as well as among others less qualified to judge.

As relating directly to this general subject, and as giving the opinion of enlightened observers be longing to the naval service of another nation, we may cite the subjoined observations made on our armored vessels of the "monitor class" by a contributor to a Russian periodical, and translated by Admiral Lesoffsky, who, our readers are aware, was detailed by the Russian Government to study and report on our system of iron-clad ships of war. The writer says :

"Notwithstanding the defects of the American Monitors the strength shown by them during the bombardment is truly astonishing. The Southerners were firing from guns of the heaviest calibres at distances which probably were carefully measured before the commencement of the action—these distances being smaller than half the distance of an ordinary pointing fire—and yet not one of the monster charges penetrated the turrets. The strongest experience of this kind was sustained by the Passaic, and what was the result? A shot from a gun of a heavy calibre struck the upper edge of the turret, broke eleven plates, but did not penetrate the turret, though the strength of the shock was such that the projectile rebounding upwards made as indentation of two and a half inches in the pilot house, and bent it on one side; and, notwithstanding all this, in the turret proper of the Passaic, as well as in the turrets o the other monitors, there was no one killed or wounded a result certainly very important, and which confirms the great superiority of the monitor system over all other systems of armor-plated vestels.

"The fighting test through which the monitors have passed is certainly more effective and decisive than the experiments made on plates representing the sides of a 'War rior' or a 'La Gloire;' 44 inch plates of these were frac tured by occasional shots.
"We may well ask what would have become of the ves

by such plates, and their sides presenting large target, and if (as it happened with the Nahant) they would be exposed for some time to a concentrated fire of 100 guns, at a distance less than 1,500 feet! It is not d flicuit to answer. Not only the 'Warrior,' with the 'La Gloire, but all those Minotaurs, Northumberlands, Magentas, and Solferinos, constructed on improved models, would be sunk in such circumstances, while the Nahant got out of the action with injuries comparatively not very 'In examining the reports of the captains we can find

several other places confirming the solidity of the monitors With the exception of the Keckuk and Passaic all the ves sels of the equadron were in a condition to continue the fight, and it was only the signal of the Admiral (to stor Weehawken, Montsuk, Patapsco, and Catskill, after a hot action of forty minutes, had no serious injuries, not only in their turrets, but in any other parts of the vessels. In one word, from whatever side you look upon the results of the battle, they are positively favorable to the monitor system of constructing vessels, inasmuch as the same is subject to tors building at the present time, and unconditionally on those that are to be built. Passing to the repreach of slow ness of fire from the monitors, it is easy to prove that taking into consideration the present state of artillery, the num ber of projectiles fired within a certain specified time is not so very important as is the degree of destruction they Five shots from the Wechawken were quit sufficient to force the Atlanta, a beautiful iron-clad corvette which cost the Southerners a million of dollars, to strike

her flag.

"And it is certain that nine shots from a firteen-incl gun fired by the Passaic in forty-five minutes would do great deal of harm to the Warrior or Black Prince In three-quarters of an hour the Federal squadron let out 139 projectiles, excluding three shots that the Keckuk and remembering that the Admiral's ship, the New Lousides, scarcely participated in the fight, it appears that the mean number of shots fired from the fourtee guns of the remaining seven monitors during the action was nine, or one shot for every five minutes, a result, if not particularly brilliant, still very satisfactory, if we remember that the continual stoppages in firing are partly explained by part are set aside by another system of artillery, possible improvements in loading guns, and port stoppers.

"In conclusion, it will not be amiss to remark that, in

examining the reports of the captains who participated in the bombardment of the 7th April, we are far from affirming that their vessels were perfect. No, certainly not. Monitors, like all other specimens of ship-building, bave their defects. They are not easily managed; they are unsuited for passages of long duration: for fight against for tresses they are nearly useless; and, notwethetanding this; it can be boldly asserted that, not only eight months ago. when we commenced their construction, but at the present time, after all the experiments and latest inventions, it is difficult to designate any other system for constructing coast vessels more useful for the defence of Cronstadt from an attack from sea, to navigate narrow and shallow channels; and particularly is there no other system more suit able to the means of construction we had in Russia in the summer of 1863."

CENSUS IN 1865.

A very important joint resolution, the result of efforts made by Senators Harris and Wilson, was recommended to the Senate for adoption, on Wednesday, by Mr. Trumbull, chairman of the Judiciary Committee, to which the propositions of Messrs. Harris and Wilson had been previeusly referred. We refer to the joint resolution recommending the States respectively to provide for a census in 1965, a measure in every respect so salutary and important, if not essential, in the present juncture of affairs, that it can hardly fail of unanimous adoption by the two Houses of Congress. The provisions of this resolution, if acceded to by the States, will ensure improvement and uniformity in the State enumeration, and will probably effect a concerof action among the States, such as will secure a genera census every five years hereafter. But should the result be limited to the coming year, the advantage will prove of vast importance in demonstrating the effects of the revolution in which we are so unhappily involved upon population and the productive resources of the country, the proper understanding whereof is so necessary to intelligent legislation as well as for general information. The results of a census in 1865 will possess an interest and significance usequalled by any public development ever made in any country, and it would be a cause for universal regret should Congress fail to perfect a measure which seems to have been so maturely considered and so well commenced.

THE NEW CENTS IN CIRCULATION .- The new cen recently authorized to be issued have already appeared They are made almost entirely of copper. The circumference of the new coin is the same as that of the nickel cents, but they are thinner and much lighter.

QUESTION OF SUFFRAGE IN ENGLAND.

We give in another part of our paper to-day the essential portion of a speech delivered in the British House of Commons on the 11th instant by Mr. GLADSTONE, the present Chancellor of the Exchequer, in which he reopened the question of "electoral reform," with a view to such an extension of the elective franchise in England as shall

embrace the working classes. Upon the subject to which it relates, this speech is held by Englishmen of all parties to be the most significant that has been delivered in Parliament since the passage of the so-ealled " reform bill," which, it will be remembered, was urged by its advocates as a "finality." The tendency of English public opinion in the matter of suffrage cannot have escaped the observation of any intelligent student of politics, and just as little can it be doubted that, whether for good or for evil, the Chancellor of the Exchequer has lent the weight of his name and influence to accelerate the drift of that opinion in the direction impressed on it by causes not likely to relax in their operation until they have spent their force by reaching the widest possible boundary within which they can be permitted to play. The progress of change in the course of all Governments under this head follows a law which may be distinctly marked by every thoughtful observer In monarchical Governments there is a constant recoil of the popular instincts from the exaggeration of these prerogatives which give to monarchical institutions their distinctive features. And as every Government is most liable to offend by exaggerating its distinctive peculiarity, there is a perpetual tendency on the part of despotic Governments to become despotic beyond the power of popular endurance, and on the part of democratic Governments to become democratic beyond the conditions of their existence as stable and symmetrical structures. In this way a constant perturbation marks the progress of nations in the great ecliptic of history through which they move. Nations like Russia, as it was in the days when Voltaire called it "a despotism tempered by assassination," are bound by any progress which they make in the way of political reform to become less distinctively monarchical. Nations like the United States, which exaggerate the popular principle that lies at their base until their institutions may be fairly characterized, as Carlyle once characterized ours when he called them "anarchy plus a constable," are bound by an irresistible law to expiate their transgression of the restraints of government by just such purgatorial fires as these through which we are now passing. Nations like France, which have not been able, either under monarchical or popular auspices, to combine the institutes of civil security with the aspirations of political equality. are found perpetually oscillating between absolutism and democracy-extremes which are each productive of the other, and each in turn self-destructive. Unless we misread the signs of the times in England, it is safe to prognosticate that that country has passed the period when the stability of its Government is in any danger from the intensification of the maxims and usages which constitute the "flowers of prerogative," and will henceforth be called to illustrate the perils which spring from giving too much momentum to the popular element in its constitution.

HOW TO RECRUIT THE ARMY.

The experience of all natious in the conduct of observation of Jomini when he says that a vigorous and regular system of recruiting is of prime necessity to the successful prosecution of war. In our country, during the present war, the main reliance of the Government has been placed on volunteering, stimulated by the offer of bounties, and in this way contingents of unexampled magnitude have been furnished to our commanders in the field according to the conceived exigencies of the public service. To the draft, pure and simple, without provision for commutation, there is a repugnance generally felt which outweighs, on the score of political prudence, the considerations of a military character that seem to argue in its favor. It is possible that the present war may be brought to a close without creating a new demand for troops to recruit the national armies in any field of itsoperations; but, if this hope should not be justified by the course of military events during the present campaign, it strikes us that the Boston Daily Advertiser suggests an expedient policy for replenishing the depleted ranks of the army when it recommends as follows :

"The wants of the army can readily be supplied, we believe, for any exigency that can now be conceived as possible, without requiring any measure of such severity as a conscription without commutation. Let the Govern-ment estimate the supplies of men which it must receive for the current military year, as it does the supplies of money; and let its calls upon the States be made, not for masses of three hundred thousand or half a million recruits, but for a certain monthly quota, to be drawn by conscrip-tion if not otherwise supplied. Every community will then know precisely what is before it, will be able to provide for the future when labor is plenty, and to judge of the best means for answering the requirements of its own case; and the country will cease to be racked by the anxiety and slarm caused by sudden demands for a vast number of men to meet some pressing emergency."

Besides other advantages apparent in this policy, it would have for its effect to fill up the ranks of the army with new recruits as the vacancies were created from time to time by the monthly casualties and waste of the service; whereas the present system labors under the disadvantage of leaving the army in a state of inefficiency during the intervals when its numbers have been reduced by various causes, and this inefficiency is not repaired in the most expedient manner by the introduction into the army at a single time of large contingents composed of raw recruits. The same number of men furnished in monthly instalments would keep our armies always at a regular maximum, both in respect of their numbers and their discipline.

ARRIVAL OF CONTRABANDS.

Ou Monday afternoon a steamer from Port Royal arrived at the Sixth street wharf with about eight hundred picked up at different points along Gen. Grant's line of march. These are genuine, jet black contrabands. When negroes-men, women, and children-who have been the -teamer reached the wharf here it was discovered that there were several cases of small-pox among them, which were immediately removed and sent to a small-por hospital. It is understood that these contrabands will be sent to the Freedmen's village.

The favorable prospect for grass has already brought may down \$5 a ton in Providence, R. I.

THE WAR IN VIRGINIA.

UNOFFICIAL DETAILS.

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF THE POTOMAC, The advance of the army reached the North Anna yesterday forenoon, the Fifth Corps arriving by the telegraph road from Guiney's station, along which they had followed the enemy for several miles, skirmishing at different points, and capturing a number of prisoners.

Ewell's corps were in the rear of the retreating foe, and when they got to the North Anna they took position behind the earthworks on both sides of the river.

The Second Corps, having had the advance on the Bowling Green road, remained at Milford on the 22d, and at 1 P. M. yesterday came up and took position on the left of the Fifth Corps, reaching the railroad.

On examination it was found the enemy held a strong position on the south bank of the river, with their advance on a peninsula formed by a smail stream, which emptied

into the river near the railroad crossing. Barlow's division occupied the right of the railroad, Birney in front of the peninsula, and Gibbon on the right, while the Fifth Corps were on the road leading to the ford, a mile to the right.

Skirmishing in front of Birney commenced about 2 P. M. and at 4 the batteries got to work and shelled the enemy, white Birney's division were ordered to charge and carry the works, and, it possible, get possession of the bridges across the river. The charge was made in splendid style, and, although met with a shower of bullets from the riflepits, as well as shells from the batter es on the opposite side of the river, our men never halted until the enemy were driven across the bridge, and our guns placed so as to command it. Some of the men even went half-way across, and one was seen with a rebel flag, who was forced to throw it into the river to prevent its recapture.

The highest praise was given to the division and its General by Gen. Hancock, for the gallant manner in which it stormed and carried this strong position. The contest continued until after dark, each party maintaining their

Our loss in this action was about two hundred and fifty in killed and wounded. The loss of the enemy was full as heavy as our own, and we took a number of prisoners.

About five P. M. Gen. Warren effected a crossing, and, taking a position on the outh bank, threw up some breastworks. Soon after he was attacked by a large force of rebels, whom he drove back with heavy loss, their dead and wounded lying thick on the ground in front of our lines after they retreated. Our loss here was upward of three hundred in killed and wounded.

About dark Gen. Burnside's corps came up and took position between Hancock and Warren, and made preparations to cross. Every body felt in good spirits and confident of a victory on the coming day.

The army advanced at an early hour this morning, but the enemy were found to have fallen back during the night. and the skirmsh line was captured after the first round. It was suspected that this might be a ruse, and caution was exercised as the troops advanced. Shirmishing took place at several points, but the Second Corps had met no force of the enemy up to two P. M., at which time your correspondent left the front.

Gen. Warren had advanced some two or three miles. the enemy in his front seeming determined to dispute his advance, although probably falling back.

This afternoon a detachment from the cavaly exped tion, under Sheridan, arrived at headquarters appounding the safe return of the command across the Pamunkey last night, and that they would strive to-night. Gen. Custer's division cut the railroad twelve miles below Hanover Junction on the 21st, burning two bridges and tearing up a mile of the track. He encountered a body of the rebel cavalry behind barricades, but could not induce them to come out and attack him. The party had to build a bridge across the Pamunkey, at the White House, which they did in twenty-four h urs. The entire command passed in safety over it. The horses of the expedition are pretty well exhausted, but a few days' rest and feed upon the fine clover to be found in this vicinity will put them in condition for service. Gens. Sheridan, Gregg, and Custer are entitled to great praise for the manner in which the expedition has been conducted.

TUESDAY EVENING, EIGHT O'CLOCK Firing was heard this morning in the direction of Port Royal. It was supposed to be from a rebel battery, which is reported to have been placed at a point twelve military operations has sufficiently verified the miles below Fredericksburg. Two gunboats went down the river last night, and it is thought they may have been attacked, in the hope of sinking them.

An orderly of Gen. Lee was brought into headquarters to-day, on whom was found a despatch to Gen. Ewell from Gen. Lee, ordering him to fall back rapidly to the defences of Richmond.

A lieutenant taken two days ago said his brigade had been at Plymouth and at Drury's Bluff, and after fighting Butler was sent at once to join Lee's army in front of Grant. The colonel made a speech on Saturday evening, as soon as they arrived, telling them they must reach Richmend on Monday at 10 A. M. or the "damned Yanks" would be there before them.

BEADQUARTERS ARMY OF THE POTOMAC.

Tuesday Morning, May 24.

The crossing of the North Anna was effected by the cond and Fifth Corps at half-past six P. M. yesterdsy The points of crossing were at Taylor's Bridge and Jericho Mills, three miles above. Our troops this morning occupy the same positions on the south bank of the river, and on the left are distant only a thousand yards from the Vis ginia Central railroad

At about six o'clock last evening the divisions of Griffin, Crawford, and Cutler commenced the crossing at Jericho Mills, the two former fording the river while the pontoon was being laid, without opposition by the enemy. The Cutler, who crossed on the bridge, was getting into postion on the right when the enemy opened with musketry and artillery on Griffin's right, in an endeavor to flank him The fight thus begun lasted one hour, when the enemy, finding all attempts to dislodge us futile, fell back, and ou lines were advanced a mile beyond the river.

A number of de-perate charges were made by the ene my, but were in every instance handsomely repulsed by Griffin's and Cutler's divisions, Crawford's command being exposed to an artillery fire only. Probably from two to three hundred rebel prisoners were captured, including the Assistant Adjutant General of the South Carolina brigade. Our loss on the right will not amount to over four hundred. The rebel force engaged consisted of Hood's and Wilcox's divisions, the former of Longstreet and the

latter of A. P. Hill's corps.

Batteries D and H of the First New York were posted on the right during the battle, and were effective in re-pulsing the assaults of the enemy. Battery B of the Fourth States was in position opposite Gen Crawford's

The crossing of the Second Corps was made two and half miles from the Junction at Taylor's bridge, opposite which McLaw's division of Longstreet's corps was posted behind works constructed by them in 1863 Rebel sharpshooters also held the island in the river at the bridge until charged and captured by Egan's and Pierce's brigades of Birney's division. The crossing was made under heavy artillery fire from the enemy, which, however, inflicted

but little damage upon our troops. Last night at half past eleven o'clock we occupied the sland, but no cressing of the main stream had been at-

The impression is general that Lee will not accept battle short of Richmond, and that our march to the rebe capital will be uninterrupted. A bearer of despatches from Lee was captured yesterday, whose despatches ordered the collection of all stragglers above Hanover Junction, as his army was falling back upon Richmond.

DETAILS OF THE LATEST FLANK MOVEMENT.

Mr. SWINTON, correspondent of the New York Time lespatches from the front the following details of Gen Grant's latest flank movement. His despatch is dated near the Pamunkey river, at three o'clock on Friday

Last night the Army of the Potomac recrossed the North Anna and began another flanking movement, now in pro gress, and destined to oust the rebels from another at-

After effecting the passage of the river on Monday and Fridan, the army was pushed forward across the Virginia Central railroad for the purpose of feeling the position and strength of the enemy. The reconnoiseance of Wednes day, continued yesterday, determined that Lee was in fu force and holding a powerful position in our immediate front, somewhat in advance of Little river. It happened, too, that not only was the nature of the ground very favorable to him, but he had gained a position tactically of the

Ford. The enemy had thrown his centre forward so as to form a line of battle in the shape of the letter V, the apex abutting on the river. Minor reconnoissances developed that the right flank of Lee's army rested on a swamp, and its left on Little river, which covered a good portion of his line. This position the rebels have passed every hour situation at this moment is much more favorable to us than since they arrived here in fortifying, and if driven from when Grant crossed the Rapid-Ann. this they had the elaborately prepared line of the South Anna to fall back upon.

In this state of facts the Commanding General deter-

mined on a repetition of the same strategy by which he had forced Lee from the lines of Spottsylvania. Geo. Grant has as little idea as you can imagine of butting his head against prepared works. Consequently he resolved to repass the North Anna, swing round to the left over the Pamunkey and leave Lee to enjoy all the benefit of his prepared line, in which he would be glad to have him stay ss long as possible.

Accordingly, yesterday afternoon, preparations were made to carry this design into execution. To call off the attention of the enemy, a demonstration was made on our extreme right. The cavalry corps having returned from its great raid, Wilson's division was sent up on the enemy's left, while Wilcox, with Cohorn mortars, opened from the north bank, and at dark the withdrawal of this army was children who are able to leave are moving off in large number. begun-the Sixth Corps leading, followed by the corps—a strong skirmish line meanwhile being left. Han-cock, who had the advance in the forward movement, now brings up the rear

It was designed to make the withdrawal secret, and it seems to have been a success, as not even a picket sho was fired during the night, and nothing met the ear in the midnight air save the low rumble of the wagons across the bridges and the muffled tread of moving columns. onward march continues at this hour, and the head of the column will probably roon reach the Pamunkey, crossing the river at Hanover town—not the court house, you will

To-day's work will, it is hoped, plant this army on the direct road to Richmond, and fifteen miles from the long desired spot. But what the military developments of the day may be, and how they will affect the immediate and ultimate upshot of things, it is impossible, and would be vain, for me to attempt to anticipate.

A special despatch to the Philadelphia Inquirer, dated Headquarters of the Army, in the saddle, en route for Richmond, via Hanover Ferry," at six o'clock in the morning of Friday, says:

I halt by the roadside to send a courier back to announce that our whole army is again in motion. The glorious old Second, Hancock's corps, is in advance, followed by Wright's corps Warren is joining us, having brought up our rear, on our former right wing, over the North Anna Burnside will cross at the County Bridge, and will bridge up our rear The army moves with a celerity never known before. We will make twenty miles before night. Sheridan is ahead of us, scouring the country for rebels

Lee evidently thought up to the last that we were going to turn his left and give him battle on the north side of the outh Anna. He is again out-generalled, and by night we will be within four bours' march of Richmond. ting Lee snugly ensconced in his works, away we go are

The whole country through which we are marching is planted with corn, nothing hardly but corn. Pasture is ery fine. Our army sweeps before it all the forage and applies to be found. Horses, cattle, mules, contrabands, ce ail fall into our huge train.

It may be some days before you hear again; but fear t. The confidence felt in Grant, Meade, and our vete rans knows no bounds

THE CAMPAIGN IN VIRGINIA.

The following article from a Richmond journal in refer nce to the flank movement by which Gen. Grant compelled Gen. Lee to abandon his strong position at Spottsylvania. and seeming also to anticipate Gen. Grant's more recent movement to the Pamunkey river, will be read with interest at this time, though the substance of the article was given in our issue of yesterday. It is copied from the Richmond Examiner of the 24th of May.

THE STRATEGY OF GEN. LEE.

The intelligence already published is confirmed in the most complete manner. The chief army of the enemy has abandoned its base on the Rapid Ann and upper Rappahanock, and established a new source of supp y on the lower waters of the last named river at Port Royal and Tappa annock. His troops are marsed in the country between the Matapony and the lower Rappahanneck. His front is at Mulford and the Bowling Green. This change of position has rendered necessary a corresponding change in the p sition of Gen. Lee. After ascertaining that no enemy was left to light in Spottsylvania he has come down the ine he has held with success from the first, and again planted himself between Grant and Richmond, near Hanver Junction.

The Northern journals, on the news of this movement by Gen Lee, will, of course, raise the yell of triumph louder than ever. The retreat of Lee; the flight of the Have they not abandoned Spottsylvania Court Hou-e? Is not the Junction twenty miles nearer siebmoud? be expended on these themes! It is irritating to think of committees have been ordered from this city to the front the turn they will give to the facts; but we cannot help it, We suppose that people have sense in New York and Lon ion, as elsewhere, and it will be d flicult to make them believe that the Confederate army is flying when it moves from a position which its adversary has abandoned to place itself full before him across the new road on which he has determined to travel. When Gen. Lee moves his army after a lost battle, for the purpose of getting away from his antsgonist, because he finds himself unable to maintain a struggle of brute force with him, he will have retreated But if either party has done that, it is certainly Grant. Lee followed him from the Wilderness; he is now the last to move and is pursuer, not pursued, from Spott

It is true that by both movements these armies have been brought nearer to Richmond; but for Lee it was rendered necessary by the configuration of the soil and the lines of those rivers which he had resolved to defend. They have their sources remote from the city, approach it in sourse, and empty their waters in the neighboring York. was choice. He is where he now is be cause he could not pass over the road of his first and second boice. He might have come to Spottsylvania by travel ing along the straight road from Washington to Freder eksburg through tafford without firing a shot or losing a man. He mgat have arrived at Muford and Bowling Green from Port Royal or Tappahannock without the slaughter of his troops in the Wilderness or at the Court bouse. He might have come still pearer. He might have come to the Piping Tree, within eleven miles of Richmon without an engagement with Gen. Lee He might have come up the Pounsula, perhaps, to Fair Oaks and joined hands with Butler on the south side, as some still expect him to do, and this he will doubtless proclaim, in the end to have been the object of all his circuitous route. B each of these ways of advance Gen. Grant would have brought Gen. Lee from the Rapid-Ann nearer to Richmond He did not take them because there were dangers and defects. He preferred the first and the second before the third, and this before the fourth. That he abaudoned, after trial, the two first is due to two clear defeats in battle. So far from losing ground Lee has gained manifest ad antages by each change of the lines. It is easier to de fend that portion of his line which is nearer to Richmond than that which was far removed from it. He is far better ituated now than at Spottsylvania Court-House, and that vas better than the Wilderness. In either place his supales stores, and reinforcements had to come up from The country has been long since seared and beaten into a desert by the drums and tramplings of three avasions. From the railroads to his camp weary miles of ed mud were always interposed by every shower. His cavairy is notoriously defective, and has always proven in flicient to protect his communications at those moments when they were most needed. While operating on the over rivers all of these troubles are over. A lew pours give him his supplies. The roads can no longer be severed The difficulties under which he has labored are transferred to the score of the enemy. Perhaps a ties the late of Lieutenant Dixon and erew, whose torpede priction that it would be so was the reason which made Grant prefer to encounter Lee in the Wilderness, instead coming straight to Millord Considering he whole-facts we think the time has comshen Confederates may exchange congratulations. No

flecting man can doubt that the general situation is very much improved since the day when Grant crossed the Kapid-Ann and Butler landed at Bermuas Hundred. That was ndeed a crifical moment. the Contederate government had been well warned of the concentration against Richmond. It was half convinced of its reality. only half belief; sn idea rather theoretical than practical. It was just enough moved to render it active in r he divisions which Lee had with him on the Rapid Ann. it was not so satisfied of the truth as to collect all the di sions of Lee's army in their place, or even in the State t made no unusual collection of material in Virginia. But throughout the winter the enemy marched up his men from very quarter of the United States to the outer lines o irginia. Fully determined to make the plow decisive, he spared no cost or means-acted without regard to future campaigns. Uninterrupted by any disturbing cause, be seed his armies in positions whence they could be rought upon vital points of attack in a few hours of When all was quite ready, and the roads onrely dry, the signal was given, and the two masses of deructive material struck us, warned, but ili prepared, at

e same instant.

That was indeed a critical moment. But the ship had original strength sufficient to stand the shock. Lee's this army beat the chief force of the enemy in the Wilder the second blow was deadened by the fortifications near Drury. Every moment since clapsed has been gain to us. Time was all we wanted to bring up Beauregard,

crossed the river at the railroad bridge is separated by an interval of about four miles from the point at which the corps of Warren and Wright made the passage at Jericho Ford. The enemy had thrown his centre forward so as to danger, the danger of being crushed under the rush of an avalanche, ceased to exist. It is true that the chance of attle may yet, some day, fall against us, but it is certainly far less probable now than then; and, therefore, we think there is convincing solid reason to believe that the military

LATE FROM RICHMOND.

Capt. R. S. Britton, of the First New York Dragoons. captured near Todd's Tavern in the recent fight with Sheridan, arrived at Baltimore yesterday from Richmond, baving left there on Saturday last. Three cavalrymen were paroled with him and one chaplain and seven surgeons released and sent down on the same boat. They had only been in Richmond about ten days.

Capt. Britton represents the excitement at Richmond as very great, especially during the recent fights at Drury's Bluff, when the cannonacing, and even the voileys of muschildren who are able to leave are moving off in large numbers, though the greater proportion of the present inhabitants of the city were compelled by their necessities to remain with their families. There is still a large population in the city, and the military authorities express great confidence in the ability of Lee to frustrate all the plans of

The rebel Government is impressing provisions, and gathering as large a stock of supplies into the city as possible Flour is held at from \$400 to \$500 per barrel, and every thing else is correspondingly high.

FROM REBEL PAPERS. The Baltimore American, from which we obtain the

above paragraphs, is indebted to Captain Britton for copies of the Richmond papers to Saturday last, the 28th,

The rebel Congress bad discussed a motion to adjourn on the 1st of June, but the Vi ginia members are strenuously opposing the adjournment, accusing members of cowardice, and insinuating a desire on the part of those who favor the motion to get away from the beleaguered city. The further discussion of the motion was postponed to the

Brigadier General Winder has been relieved by order of General Bragg from the command of Richmond, and ordered to report to General Beauregard, with headquarters at Goldsboro, N. C. The department of Richmond and Henrico remains in full control of General Ransom. The Richmond papers claim a constant series of victories "bandsome repuises," &c , both in Virginia and Georgia.
The word "reverse" has no place in the rebel vocabulary

THE OLD DOMINION.

The rebel Congress has adopted a series of resolutions eclaring that in " no event will this Government consen to a division or dismemberment of the State of Virginia, but will assert and maintain ber jurisdiction and sover eignty to the utmost limits of her accient boundaries, at any and every cost."

GENERAL LONGSTREET. The Richmond Whig of the 28th says: "We are glad

to be able to state, upon the authority of his medical director, that Gen. Longstreet has so far recovered from the would be received in the battle of the Wilderness that he expects to take the field in about three weeks. FROM GEN LEE'S ARMY.

ASHLAND, MAY 27 -Advices from the front are that the enemy have recrossed the North Anna and are again on the move, in the direction, it is supposed, of our right The enemy are said to have made an effort this morning to burn the bridge over the North Anna, on the Telegraph road, but were foiled. There was some skirmishing this morning, and also some between 10 and 12 o'clock last

ASHLAND, MAY 27 -Our army is moving rapidly on lines almost parallel with the route which Graut is following At 12 o'clock to day a heavy force of the enemy ap peared at Hanover Court House, and were pressing our cavalry back at that point. I'wo prisoners have just been brought in belonging to the Sixth Corps. They say their c manand received orders yesterday to march to the White

AFRAIRS IN GEORGIA. The Atlanta Confederacy sums up the movements of

Gen. Sherman in Georgis, as follows: "The impression is general now that Johnston will hurhis forces upon the enemy at some point between his pre-sent line of battle and the Etowah river, upon the result of which, with our knowledge of that army and its great ommander, we are withing to stake our topes of indeper dence.

A letter from Atlanta says that a general engagement will soon take place, and adds:

"Our wounded who came down from the front repre sent that our troops are in the best of spirits and confident of success when the decisive fight takes place. They say Johnston knows what he is about, and that the Yankees What an amount of gascous nonsense will | will find out when the proper time comes. All the relief This looks as if Johnston contemplated

BY TELEGRAPH.FROM GEORGIA.

ATLANTA, MAY 25-Westward and castward to Colum bus the barmless people of Northern Georgia are crowding into this city to await the issue of the impending struggle between our army and the Federal.

The Rehef Committee here are powing out every thing that can be obtained for their sustenance, and call now to the people of Georgis, Alabama, and South Carolina to aid and help them. Immediate, instant help is needed in clothing for women and children, bacon, sal meats, fish, meal, and corn. These things can be delive ed to the agent of the express company, addressed to . W. Duncan, President of Relief Committee, Atlanta They also need information as to where any number of destitute females can find shelter and food. Will the present please publish these and aid in the matter?

Two press reporters came from the army this evening Their intelligence is mostly of a character which prudence requires should be withheld from publication. Furthe ovements looking to a secure base for the army have been completed. The Yankees are reported moving down to Patton (Dallas) in force. This morning some skirmining took place on our extreme left. The siarm in this city took place on our extreme left. has in a great measure subsided. Several days may clapse b fore a general engagement takes place. The trains today came from Altona.

ATLANTA, MAY 27 -Our advance came up with the en-my at New Hope, four miles east of Dailas, at non-Wednesday. Hood's Corps was first in he fight; parts of two divisions-Stevenson's and Hindman's-only were engaged. We had but one fine of batile, which the enemy charged twice, but were handeomely repulsed. A private note from Gen Johnston's headquarters at sunrise yester day says that the affair of Wednesday afternoon was band some. We are having a renewal this morning. During the day firing continued, but was evidently receding from us, and a few guns have been heard this morning appa rently at a still greater dictance. General Cummings severely wounded in the breast and arm. Gen Reynold wounded slightly. The army was moving up to the field

yesterday morning in fine condition. ATLANTA, May 27 -Letters from the press reporte on the field say that the operations of yesterday were co fined to skirmishing and the enemy feeling for our postions. Our right rests on the road from Acworth to Da lss, about three miles northeast from New Hope Church and extends from the latter point nearly west. The movements of the enemy continue to extend towards our right indicating a disposition to get near Etowah river and bridge. Firing was heard early this morning but died away soon.

THE HOUSATONIC DESTRUCTION.

A letter from M M. Gray, captain in charge of torpe does, dated Charleston, April 29, addressed to Major Gen eral Maury, published in the Richmond Sentinel, thus set vessel sunk the Housatonic off Charleston bar in February

Since that time no information has been received the forpedo best or the crew. I am of opinion that the torpedo b- ing placed at the bow of the boat, she went into hole made in the Housatonic by the explosion of the torpedo, and did not have power sufficient to back out and subsequently sunk with her.'

TERRIFIC EXPLOSION AT DETROIT.

From the Detroit Free Press.

One of the most terrible explosions ever witnessed b or citiz as occurred this morning, about half past seve o'clock, at Williams' dock. The propeller Nile had already steamed up, and, with treight and passengers on board. was about starting for Milwaukee, when her boiler sud-denly bursted and blew the craft jobs a thousand pieces in momen 's time. The whole city was startled by the shock, and soon the streets leading to the scene of the te rib'e accident were blocked with eager thousands auxiou to know the result and learful for the worst.

The scene in the vicinity of the dock was indeed a frightful one. The wreck of the shattered steamer lay strewn about for a distance of several blocks; pieces wer aing down the river; the greater portion of the boile itself by in the middle of First street, a distance of ter rods from the water's edge; buildings in the vicinity were torn to pieces; large and massive brick walls were perfe rated by large timbers driven through them like ! leaves riddled with bullets. For the space of an hour all was excitement and confusion in the immediate vicinity of

STATE CONVENTIONS.

REPUBLICAN CONVENTION OF NEW YORK.

The Republican State Convention met at Syracuse on Wednesday, and after a squabble over the temporary organization appointed a full set of delegates to the Baltimore Convention. The delegates at large are Henry J. Raymond, Daniel S. Dickinson, Lyman Tremaine, and Preston King. The following resolution was adopted by

Resolved, That this Convention, approving the administration of Abraham Lincoln, and recognising his integrity and patriotic efforts to suppress the rebellion which he found in existence upon his insuguration, hereby expresses its preference for his renomination for the office of President of the United States.

KENTUCKY DEMOCRATIC STATE CONVENTION.

LOUISVILLE, MAY 25 .- The Democratic Union State Convention met at ten o'clock at the Court House. Hon James Guthrie was made President. Four delegates at large and two from each Congressional district were appointed to represent Ken ucky in the Chicago Convention It was resolved that an electoral ticket be selected on the same basis. In the afternoon session the electors and delegates were appointed. During the consultation of the Convention Col. Frank Wolford addressed the assembly, eliciting the most enthusiastic applause. Resolutions were passed reaffirming the principles announced by the Demoeratic State Convention of March 17, 1863, and instructing the delegates to vote for McClellan for President and Bramlette for Vice President.

REPUBLICAN CONVENTION OF KENTUCKY.

LOUISVILLE, MAY 25 -- The Republican Convention met at noon at Mozart Half. Fifty-six counties were repsented. Hon. G. W. Williams was appointed President. Among the prominent speakers were R. J. Breckenridge, S. F. Burtem, Lucien Anderson, and Judge Williams. Mr. Breckenridge told the Convention in his speech that if he were appointed a delegate he should vote for Mr. Lincoln. He was appointed one of the delegates at large. Two from each Congressional district were also appointed.

The Convention passed the following resolution Resolved, That the Union men of Kentucky, in Convenn assembled, favor the preservation and maintenance of the Union, the supremacy of the Constitution, and destruction of the rebellion, without any regard to what these of ects may cost.

ILLINOIS UNION STATE CONVENTION.

SPRINGFIELD, MAY 25 .- Tue Republican State Convenion met in this city to day and made the following nominaations : Gen. Richard Oglesby for Governor, Mr Brass, of Chicago, Lieutenant Governor; S. Tyndale, of St. Clair, Secretary of state; J N. Hayne, of Alexander, Auditor; Newton Bateman, Superintendent of Public Instruction : S. W Moulton, Congressman at large. Resolutions were adopted approving the acts of the Administration in re-stricting by all force known to civilized warfare the effort to destroy our national Union; cordially endorsing the Presidest's emancipation proclamation as a legitim ste measure; regarding the use of negroes as soldiers as warranted by the usages of civilized war: expressing the opinion that the sets of the Government have been in the main highly conducive to the suppression of the present reballion, and cordially declaring that if Abraham 1 incoln receives the mination at Balamore the Convention will give him most hearty support.

THE REPUBLICANS OF ILLINOIS.

CHICAGO, MAY 26 .- The resolutions of the Republicar State Convention were yesterday laid on the table, and another committee appointed, who reported a series, in which are the following : Resolved, That the Monroe Doctrice should be the com-

pass by which to regulate the foreign policy, and it is the high duty of the United States to reinstate republican institutions upon this continent wherever they may have been overturned, and the nation should assert this doctrine as oon as its authority is vindicated by the overthrow of the rebellion.

Resolved, That we heartily endorse the Administration of President Lincoln, and we deem his re-election denanded by the best interests of the country, and that the delegates to the "altimore Convention are hereby instructed to use all bonorable means to secure his re nomination.

THE OHIO UNION STATE CONVENTION.

COLUMBUS, MAY 25.-The Union State Convention which assembled here to day was large and barmonious All the counties in the State except two were represented. Col. T R. Shauty was elected President. Luther Day, of nated by acciamation for Supreme Judge for the full term. Mr. White, of Clark county, was declared the nominee for the short term. Herace Wilder was nominated by acclamation to fill the vacancy caused by the resign tion of Judge Johnson. William H. Smith was cominated for Secretary of State; Col. W. G. Richardson for Attorney General; Col Moses Beney, for Comptroller of the Treasury; Phillip Herring, for member of the Board of Public Works, for long term; for Sepatorial Electors, John P. Brinchen, of Brown county, and John A. Bingham, of Harrison county. The following were elected elegates to the National Convention : Meesrs x Governors Dennison and Tod, Columbus Delano, and V Dorsey. Resolutions were adopted to sustain the Soverament with men and money in suppressing the rebellion; r-comm-ading the nomination of Abraham Lin-coln; congratulating the country on the success of our rms; returning thanks to the army and navy; pledging he support of the Onio Union men to the measures of t administration of Abraham Lincoln, and approving of the mendment of the Constitution so as make all states free,

FROM RED RIVER.

The following despatch has been received at the Navy MISSISSIPPI SQUADRON.

Flag Ship Black Hawk, Off Carro, It. May 26, 1864. Hon. GIDEON WELLES, Secretary of the Navy. SIR: I have the honor to report my arrival at this place four days from Red River. The army had all crossed the Atchafalaya, and General

Smith's division embarked. The gunboats covered the army until all were over. General Smith, who brought up the rear, turned upon the rebels with a part of his command under Ger.. Mower, and kill-d and wounded a number. He capte red one hundred and eighty prisoners and two field pieces. This makes eight or vine field pieces captured by Gen Smith. besides the guns captured at Fort De Russey, in all of

which captures Gen. Mower bore a conspicuous part. It just such men we want to lead our soldiers. The river is quiet between this and Red River. The rebels had a battery on the banks below Tunica Bend, bu

the gusboats drove it away after a short action. I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant, DAVID D. PORTER, Rear Admiral.

REBEL ATTACK ON WILSON'S LANDING. FORTRESS MONROE, MAY 25 .- The steamer George

Washington arrived here this forenoon from Bermuda Hundred, and reports that at two o'clock yesterosy afterocu the rebel Gen. Fi zhugh Lee with about two thus and envalry attacked our garrison at Wilson's Landing, n the James river, near Fort Pownstan, and for a tim breatened to overpower our forces there, who heath most ravely, assisted with the support of our gunbants. At lour clock the George Washing on arrived with remores-nents from Fort Powhstan, which were landed in mediatey, and the fight continued with great severity until seven clock in the evening, when the enemy were repulsed and three hundred killed and wounded on the held. Our loss was but forty wounded. We had but one man killed in the attack, and one of the wounded died in coming down

FORT MONROE, MAY 25-5 P. M.-The steamer Thomas Powell has just arrived and reports all quiet in

A DRAFT FOR ONE HUNDRED DAYS' MEN -The proclamation by the Governor of Maryland, calling for volinteers for the period of one bundred days, to be conplayed within the Siste, having failed to procure the reusite number, the Governor, through Adjulant General erry, has issued an order that a graft will be made at headquarters, in Beitimure, on the 6th of June, tremulations between eighteen and forty-five years of age, to make up the residue due from the city of Baltimore. "the draft for the residue due from the different confices of the State will be made as soon after the 6.h of Juce as it is possible to prepare for it. Up to that day volunteers will be accepted and credited to their respective places of residence